

Application Number: 10/598,076

Amendment dated: October 28, 2009

Reply to Office Action of: August 03, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cover for a handles for use under sterile conditions, the cover comprising:

a flexible, foldable bag open at one end, to cover said handle;

an annular skirt for holding ~~the entire periphery of a portion at~~ the open end of said flexible bag;

a ring for snugly holding said portion against the inner surface of said skirt;

a first set of spikes of differing lengths protruding inwards from the inner surface of said skirt, pointing towards ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of said skirt; ~~and wherein said spikes are of uneven length,~~

a second set of spikes protruding inwards from ~~the~~ an inner perimeter of said ring.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method for providing a sterile cover to a handle in an operating room comprising:

unfolding a folded sterile bag, with its open end directed towards said handle, starting said unfolding from the end of said handle, by sliding said bag a collar secured to the open end of the bag along said handle, the collar comprising an annular skirt and an inner ring; and
~~wherein retaining~~ said bag is kept in place by ~~at least one~~ a first set of spikes such that spikes of different lengths that project radially inwardly from the collar to engage the handle directly,

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~~exert force on said handle depending on their respective lengths, and wherein at least some of said spikes exert force on~~ and by a second set of spikes that project radially inwardly from the collar to urge said bag against said handle.

Clean copy (non-marked version) of the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cover for a handles for use under sterile conditions, the cover comprising:

- a flexible, foldable bag open at one end, to cover said handle;
- an annular skirt for holding the open end of said flexible bag;
- a ring for snugly holding said portion against the inner surface of said skirt;
- a first set of spikes of differing lengths protruding inwards from the inner surface of said skirt, pointing towards a longitudinal axis of said skirt; and
- a second set of spikes protruding inwards from an inner perimeter of said ring.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method for providing a sterile cover to a handle in an operating room comprising:

- unfolding a folded sterile bag, with its open end directed towards said handle, starting said unfolding from the end of said handle by sliding a collar secured to the open end of the bag along said handle, the collar comprising an annular skirt and an inner ring; and
- retaining said bag in place by a first set of spikes of different lengths that project radially inwardly from the collar to engage the handle directly, and by a second set of spikes that project radially inwardly from the collar to urge said bag against said handle.